

REMARKS

The examiner's action dated August 3, 2010, has been received and its contents carefully noted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 7-8, 10, 12-23 for failing to comply with the written description. More specifically, the objected terms allegedly not described in the specification include:

- a. inflatable portion;
- b. apertures between the ankle and the sole portions;
- c. non-inflatable portion;
- d. non-inflatable parts; and
- e. the non-inflatable part extends only in the direction transverse to the circumferential direction.

In response to this rejection, the claims have been amended by replacing some of the above terms by those present in the specification or derived from the specification (e.g. illustrated in the figures) and deleting other terms.

More specifically:

a. The term *"inflatable portion"* has been replaced by the term ***"inflatable main body"***, which has literal support in the specification - see for example column 2, paragraph [0024] of the US publication;

b. The phrase *"apertures between the ankle and the sole portions"* has been replaced by the following expression ***"the shape of the inflatable main body defining a curvature corresponding to the foot part of the leg between the ankle***

and sole portions". This expression is not directly described in the present application as is, but is clearly illustrated in Figs. 1-3. Actually, these figures are focused on this specific feature (specific curvature of the splint in its open state in Fig. 1 and the splint's curvature relation to the leg part when put on the leg - Fig. 3). Applicants submit that, inasmuch as the "application as whole" may serve to support a claim feature, these clear and unambiguous illustrations in the figures are for introducing the respective feature into the claim. Also, it is absolutely clear, at least from the illustrations that, due to the shape of the integral inflatable main body (its curvature when in the open state) and due to the arrangements of the inflatable tubes within the integrally made parts of the main body, when the tubes are inflated the main body will take up the shape of the leg to provide maximum compatibility and prevent pressure on the heel;

c-d. The terms "*non-inflatable portion*" and "*non-inflatable parts*" have been deleted;

e. The phrase "*the non-inflatable part extends only in the direction transverse to the circumferential direction*" was deleted. Claim 19 was amended to recite that **the integrally made ankle, foot and sole parts of the splint comprise the inflatable tube-containing parts arranged such that when the splint wraps the leg, the inflatable tube-containing parts extend along respectively the ankle, foot and sole.** This is clearly illustrated in Fig. 1 showing different axes along which the tubes extend within the different parts of the splint intended for wrapping different leg's portions; and is also described in the application - see for example par.

[0026] of the published application: "*Parts 24, 25, 26, 40, 41*"

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contain inflatable tubes. These tubes are designed to wrap the leg, the foot the ankle and the heel of the injured, taking into account the leg's curves and structure for maximum compatibility."

On the basis of the claim amendments and remarks presented herein, the rejection under 35 USC 112 is respectfully traversed and it is asked that this rejection be withdrawn, that all of the claims be allowed and that the application be found in allowable condition.

If the above amendment should not now place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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